



Your Window on the World

6
June 2004

Advanced

彭蒙惠英語

World-Class Race
With a
Dragon's
Face

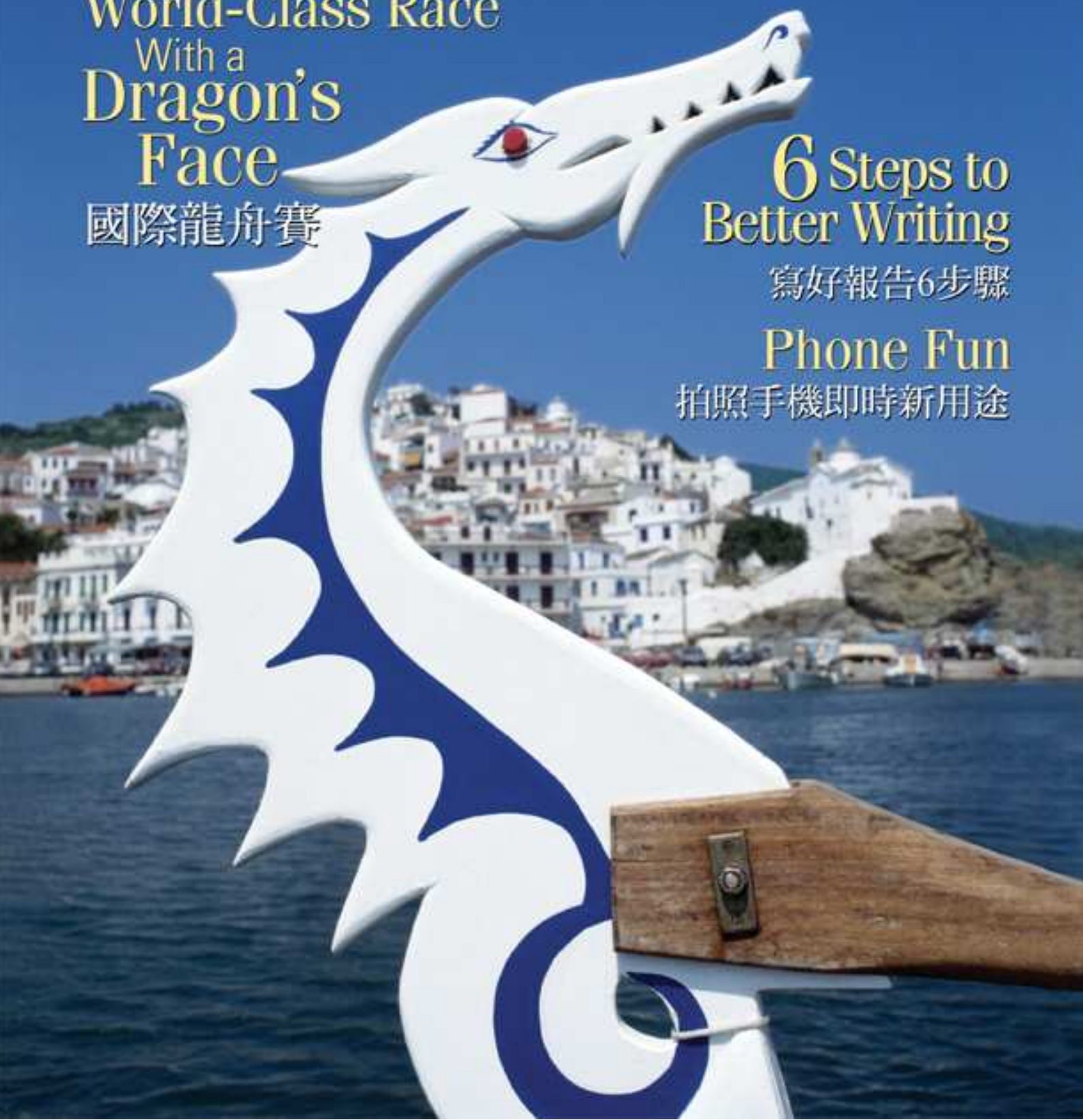
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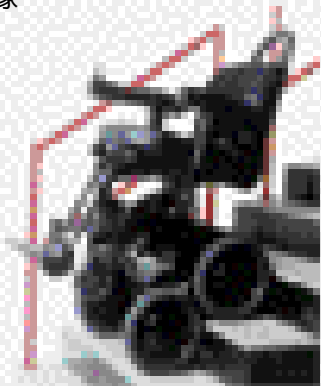
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REACHING for the Sky

by Gareth Morgan / GRAPHICS BY JESSIE KAO

As the race to build the tallest skyscraper continues, Taipei 101 takes the crown

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An expensive new game of **one-upmanship** is gaining more players in Asia. Unlike the contests of old, rivals in this game do not **face off** with swords or feats of martial arts. The new weapons are steel, concrete and glass. To the victor go wealth, power and international reputation. Welcome to the world of 21st-century skyscraper construction.

Eight of the world's 10 tallest buildings are now in Asia, and the next generation of even taller buildings is being built here, too. The race to build the best and biggest continues at a **feverish** pace and shows no signs of slowing down.

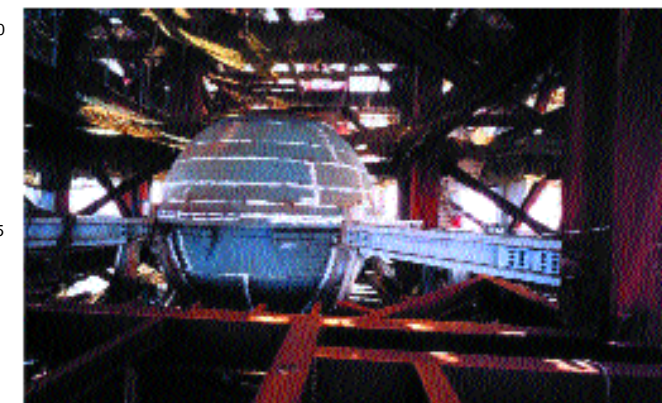
Powerful symbols

Why race? Tall buildings, for one thing, are immediate and obvious symbols of prosperity. As Asia continues to expand its economic **presence** and influence on the world stage, nothing says "open for business" like a shiny new skyscraper. At the same time, regions within Asia are **jockeying** for recognition and respect, while struggling to develop their own 21st-century identities.

A tall building has the power to speak to area residents as a metaphor—an emblem of their society's collective hopes and dreams. The metaphor is powerful and emotional, accessible to the stockbroker and the street-side soup vendor alike. Tall buildings provide "bragging rights." They also impress visitors and attract tourists.

This has certainly been the case for Taipei with its newly finished Taipei 101 skyscraper, a 508-meter-tall masterpiece. Taipei is presently home to the world's tallest building, a distinction that has given the city a boost in confidence and stature.

www.skyscraperpage.com



Taipei 101's massive 800-ton "damper" absorbs movement caused by high winds

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Design revolutions

The latest **renaissance** in skyscraper construction owes considerable credit to forward-thinking engineers. In recent years, the combination of new building materials and construction methods has allowed high-rises to go further into the clouds. Today's new skyscrapers are composed of **high-stress** concrete and steel—durable materials that are lighter than the building blocks of the previous century. Fast-setting concrete compounds allow construction to

proceed at a faster pace, which reduces overall production costs. Cleverly designed central columns allow skyscraper weight to be shifted to underground **substructures**, allowing buildings more floors and greater overall height.

These innovations are fine if height is the only concern. But when architects conceived a skyscraper for Taipei—a location regularly **battered** by typhoons and earthquakes—their design standards needed to be higher still.

Some critics said it was folly to even think of building Taipei 101 in the first place. How wise is it to raise the world's tallest skyscraper in such a volatile location? To proceed, the construction of Taipei 101 called for some truly unconventional design elements.

Record-Holding Cities

For 84 years, the Empire State Building in New York City held claim to the world's tallest building title. In 1974 the crown passed to the Sears Tower in Chicago. In 1998, Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers took over. Now, Taipei holds the title, with its 508m-tall Taipei 101 building



The Taipei 101 tower uses Chinese symbols of good fortune in its architecture

© Jeff Chao / CRIY (x2)

Since Taipei 101 will house the Taiwan Stock Exchange, a four-story-tall *gu qian* (g) motif hangs on each face of the building. This ancient Chinese coin symbolizes, of course, “big” money. Finally,

the top of the Taipei 101 mall is decorated with a large *ru yi* (如意) **ornamentation**, which Chinese people keep as lucky charms. In Mandarin Chinese *ru yi* literally means “as you like,” a favorable **sentiment** for smooth business dealings.

Inside the Taipei 101 mall, 163 brand-name stores provide Taipei consumers with the “shop-till-you-drop” experience they crave. The mall features fancy restaurants on the upper levels, and the basement food court offers an unprecedented variety of international tastes. The basement also houses a large supermarket stocked with various delicacies and hard-to-find foreign foods.

How are the locals enjoying their city’s new centerpiece? “Even if you don’t go to buy anything, the mall is certainly worth checking out,” said Taipei schoolteacher Vivian Yang. “I can’t wait to go to the observation deck and see the city view!”

The drawing power of tall buildings remains as strong as ever. “Go in the week if you want to explore Taipei 101,” says TV director Malia Chen. “On Saturdays and Sundays it’s **packed**! People from central and south Taiwan have been bussing up here on the weekends just to check it out.”



© Jeff Chao / CRIY

To be earthquake resistant, skyscrapers need **flexibility** to absorb the force from shaking. But to resist typhoon winds, stiffness is necessary. To reconcile these **contradictory** needs, Taipei 101 architects combined a variety of novel innovations. The most striking of these is the **damper**—a massive 800-ton ball hanging from the 92nd floor. When high winds come, the damper absorbs the **inertia**, swaying so that the rest of the building doesn’t. If earthquake tremors shake the base of the building, the powerful steel skeleton will flex to counteract the force, keeping the building stable.

www.tfc101.com.tw

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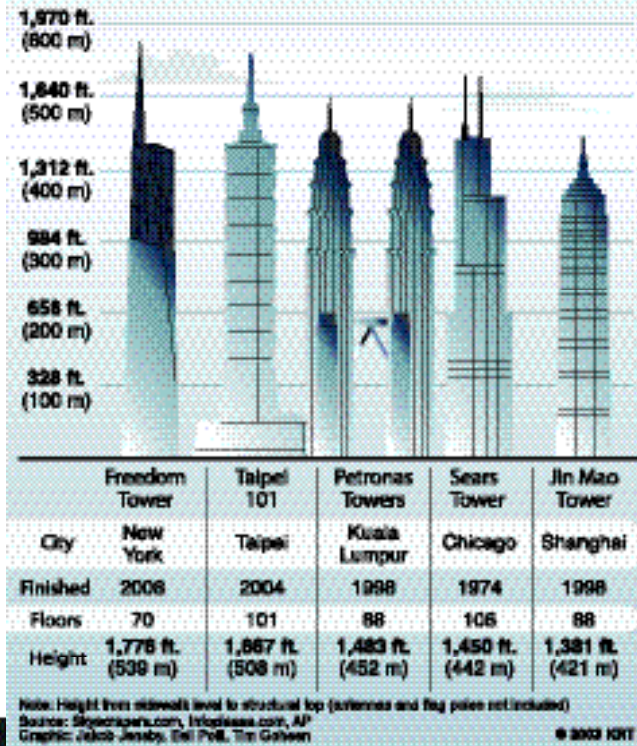
Design meets culture

Cultural connections also abound in Taipei 101’s design. Note the eight upper layers of the building, each **comprising** eight floors. Each resembles a *ding* (鼎), a classic Chinese vessel used from antiquity. The top edges of each layer tilt out at a slight angle, which signifies the blooming of a flower, or perhaps a bamboo tree—both lucky symbols. In Mandarin Chinese, the number “eight” has auspicious meaning because it sounds similar to the word “prosperity.”

Vocabulary Focus

one-upmanship (n) [wʌnˈʌpmənˌʃɪp] the practice of doing something to try to prove that one is better than someone else
face off (v phr) to get in a position in which one is ready to fight or compete
feverish (adj) [ˈfivəriʃ] characterized by intense activity; wildly enthusiastic
presence (n) [ˈprezəns] a strong and impressive appearance or influence
jockey (v) [ˈdʒʌki] to compete and try to gain an advantage by skillful maneuvering
renaissance (n) [ˈrenɪˌsɑːns] a new interest in something that had not been popular for a long time; a renewal
batter (v) [ˈbætə] to damage by repeated, hard hits or forces
contradictory (adj) [ˌkɒntrəˈdɪktəri] relating to things that are inconsistent or are in opposition to each other
comprise (v) [kəmˈpraɪz] to be made of or contain something
sentiment (n) [ˈsentəmənt] a tender, sensitive or emotional feeling or opinion
pack (v) [pæk] to be full of something or someone; extremely crowded

World’s tallest buildings



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10 “Tall” Idioms

- look up to something / someone:** to admire or respect someone or something
- things are looking up:** the situation is improving or getting better
- set one’s sights high:** to choose a lofty or ambitious goal for oneself
- on top of the world:** a feeling that one is at the peak of happiness or success
- reach for the stars:** to set one’s goals high; to try to do something that others think is impossible
- with one’s head in the clouds:** dreaming, not very realistic
- at the top of one’s game:** performing to the best of one’s ability
- rise to the occasion:** to do what is necessary at a certain time, usually by overcoming some difficulty
- over the top:** exaggerated; to exceed one’s goals or expectations
- top it off:** to finish or complete something; a final act

Specialized Terms

high-stress (adj) 可承受高壓的 relating to strong, durable materials that are able to resist pressure or forces exerted on it, without being affected by it
substructure (n) 底部構造；基礎 the lowest part of a structure that supports and provides strength; the foundation
flexibility (n) 彈性 the state of being able to move or bend without damage
damper (n) 阻尼器 a device used to control excessive vibration
inertia (n) 慣性；慣量 the physical force that keeps something in its same position of motion or rest
ornamentation (n) 裝飾；裝飾品 something that beautifies or decorates



© Jeff Chao / CRIY

「在世界上某個角落，每二十二分鐘就有一人因為地雷而喪命或重殘，」她說。

諾爾皇后的起而行也說服約旦摧毀了該國所儲備的全部地雷，這項行之多年的大工程於二〇〇三年四月完成。皇后同時也協助對伊拉克的人道援助。「在戰後的幾個星期裡，我們致力於運送美國所捐贈大約價值一百萬美元的藥品和醫療物資的後勤作業，」她說，「現在我們拿到了所有的物資，已經把它們轉運到伊拉克並分送到各醫院。」

她的官邸在巴布沙蘭宮，是皇宮區的宮殿之一，位於約旦首都安曼的西北近郊。在平常，皇后會起個大早，花幾個小時來回覆她所收到的眾多信件和電子郵件。之後，會見幾個她所主持的慈善機構的成員，其中包括胡笙國王基金會，那是在她丈夫死後，為了尊崇並繼續其致力和平的遺志所設立的。

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以下是與諾爾皇后的訪談

傳記雜誌：你仍然自認為是美國人嗎？

諾爾皇后：由於我的前半輩子是在美國度過的，所以回到那裡總有回家的感覺。因為我在中東過了後半生，所以我的生命是包含兩個世界的。我對於能夠在美國成長及受教育，感到十分地幸運。

傳記：西方對於阿拉伯女性有哪些錯誤的印象？

諾爾：西方有些人將中東視為一種異域文化，而其中女性是與世隔絕，並且無法擔任重要角色的。西方人忘記了早在七世紀時就賦予了女性革命性的權利，其中包括平等的受教育權、投票權以及擁有和繼承財產權。雖說這些權利沒有在每個中東國家充分地實行和保護，但在許多地方則確實有。女性在議會任職還有當外交官。同時還有女性律師、法官和醫師。在約旦特別容易看到。

傳記：你希望看到中東發生哪些變化？

諾爾：在推動和平的過程中有所進展，是一個具體的目標。不久的將來，這需要靠一個合法的、有效可行的、獨立的巴勒斯坦國家來達成。人們必須再次學習互相信任。建立雙方互信的策略會是消弭絕望和極端主義的唯一解藥。

傳記：對於你孩子的未來，你有何期望？

諾爾：我要他們在這個地區生活得更平安、更有希望。和他們的父親一樣，他們都有為國家服務的熱誠。所以無論他們選擇以何種方式來報效國家和地區，我都希望他們能實現他們的理想。

Reaching for the Sky

P. 24

一柱擎天

一場建築世界最高的摩天大樓競賽持續進行，台北101大樓傲擁王冠

胡怡敏 譯

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一場昂貴、高人一等的新競技，在亞洲正吸引愈來愈多的參賽者。不像古代的競賽，參與這場競技的對手不會以刀劍或武功來一決勝負。新的武器是鋼筋、混凝土和玻璃。勝利者能坐擁財富、權力和國際聲譽。歡迎來到二十一世紀的摩天建築世界！

在全世界最高的十個建築物之中，亞洲目前就擁有八座；而下一代的更高建築物，也正在此區建

造中。建構最好、最大之建築物的爭霸戰，以狂熱的速度在進行著，而且毫無減緩的徵兆。

權力象徵

為什麼要競爭呢？原因之一，高聳的建築物是顯示繁榮最直接和明顯的象徵。隨著亞洲在世界舞台上繼續擴張它經濟上搶眼的表現和影響力，沒有東西能比得上一個耀眼的新式摩天大樓，更能代表「開張大吉」。同時，亞洲各地區正在運籌帷幄，以爭取肯定和尊重，同時奮力發展它們獨特的二十一世紀身分特色。

對地區居民而言，一座高大的建築物擁有象徵性的發言力量——象徵著他們社會共同的希望及夢想的標誌。這個隱喻象徵的力量強大，而且能激起情感；是股票經紀人和街頭賣湯的小販都可以接受。摩天大樓提供了「吹噓的權利」。它們也讓參觀者印象深刻，並且吸引觀光客。

最近才落成的台北一〇一摩天大樓——一座五八公尺高的曠世鉅作——對台北市來說，確實帶出這樣



的作用。台北市是現在全世界最高建築物的所在地——一個提振這個城市信心和地位的殊榮。

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設計革命

這個最近新興的摩天大樓建構熱潮，應歸功於有前瞻思想的工程師。在最近幾年，新建築材料和建築方法的結合，得以讓摩天大樓更高聳入雲。今天的新式摩天大樓乃採用能承受高壓之混凝土和鋼鐵——比上個世紀的建材更耐用又更輕。快速凝固的混凝土複合物讓工程以更快的速度進行，因而降低整個製造成本。精巧設計的中心圓柱，能讓摩天樓的重量轉移到地下的地基結構，容許建造更多樓層，和更可觀的整體高度。

如果高度只是唯一的考量的話，這些革新則綽綽有餘。然而，當建築師為台北——一個飽受颱風和地震肆虐的地區——構思一座摩天大樓時，他們的設計標準，需要更上一層樓。

有些評論家指出，一開始，就連建造台北——的想法，都是愚蠢不堪。在這麼一個不穩定的地點建築全世界最高的大樓，可謂明智嗎？若要著手進行，台北——的營造工程，需要一些突破傳統的設計要素。

為了要防震，摩天大樓需要彈性來吸收搖晃的力量。但是要抵禦颱風的強風，堅硬是不可或缺的。為了要調和這些相互矛盾的需要，台北——的建築師群結合了許多新穎的創新方法。這些方法中最顯著的一個，是阻尼器——一個重達八百公噸，從第九十二樓垂掛下來的巨大球體。當強風來襲，這個阻尼器吸收了慣性而搖擺，因此該建築其他的部份不會晃動。如果地震的震動搖動了建築物的底部，這個強力的鋼筋骨架會彎曲，以抵消這個震力，讓大樓保持穩定。

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設計與文化的結合

台北——的設計中也充滿了文化概念。注意到大樓上層的八層組，每一層組有八個樓層。每一層組看似一個鼎——一個經典的中國古代器皿。而每一層組的上緣以些許的角度微微外翹，象徵著一朵盛開的花朵，或是一枝竹子——兩者均是幸運的象徵。在國語中，「八」這個數字則具有吉祥之意，因為它聽起來與「發」（意為興旺）類似。

由於台北——大樓將是台灣證券交易所的所在處，一個四層樓高的古錢浮雕裝飾高掛在大樓的每一面。當然囉，這個古老的中國硬幣，象徵的是「大錢」。最後，台北——購物商場的頂層，點綴著一個大型的如意——中國人所保有的幸運符。在國語裡，「如意」字面的意思是「如你所願」，深具祝福順利交易的討喜感。

在台北——的購物中心內，一百六十三個名牌店面，提供台北消費者一個他們所渴望的「讓你購物到腳軟」的經驗。購物中心上層也有精緻的餐廳，而地下室的美食中心提供了一個前所未有多樣式的國際饗宴。地下室也設有一個擺滿了各色各樣佳餚，和難以尋得的異國食品的大型超級市場。

當地居民是如何欣賞他們城市的新地標呢？「即使你什麼東西都不買，那個購物中心仍的確值得去瞧瞧，」一位台北市的教師楊嘉倩說，「我等不及要去觀景台上欣賞整個城市的景色！」

摩天大樓的吸引力仍然方興未艾。「如果你想探索台北——大樓，在週間時去，」電視節目導演陳玖利說，「星期六和星期天整個大樓是擠得水洩不通！台灣中南部的人週末時搭遊覽車北上，就為了一探究竟。」

Camera Phone Crazy

P. 28

照相手機旋風

楊嘉倩 譯

19

有些東西是註定配成對的：像是花生醬和果醬、電腦和網際網路、手機和照相機？雖然這兩項裝置表面上看起來似乎毫不相稱，含內建式數位相機的無線手機，卻已成為最搶手的必要配備。In-Stat/MDR 研究公司預測，到二〇〇七年，照相功能將成為手機的標準配備。

到底是什麼樣的吸引力？想想看，如果你正準備要買一支手機，那為什麼不買一支有些炫酷功能的手機呢？